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THE ANTI-UNION.

PRICE 2D.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1799.

No. IV.

SHALLOW.—“ *I will marry her, Sir, at your request; but if there be no great love in the beginning, yet heaven may decrease it upon better acquaintance, when we are married, and have more occasion to know one another; I hope, upon familiarity, will grow more contempt: but if you say, MARRY HER, I will marry her, that I am freely dissolved, and dissolutely.*”

MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF CORK.

Tres Tyriusve mihi-nullo discrimine agetur.

IF ever a political measure was recommended to a country, upon one principle, more corrupt and insidious than all others, it is the attempt to reconcile this great Nation to an UNION, by shewing such a change to be exclusively advantageous to some parts of it, at the expence of the rest. This has been practised upon you, and as it is impossible that you could adopt any conduct more immoral and infatuated, than to consider your individual interests in contradistinction to those of your country; the men who have so argued with you, must have been prepossessed with a conviction, that you were as selfish and unprincipled as themselves. He who now addresses you, knows you to be otherwise; he remembers your conduct upon all public occasions, for many years. He can recall to his mind, no exhibition of Irish Loyalty or Patriotism, in which the City of Cork was not a prominent figure in the picture. Perhaps were he to descend from the elevated and extensive view, which this great question presents to him, and individualize his feelings upon this subject, he would identify his interests with yours, but he must belie all his experience, and all his prejudices, before he can join in that slander of your character, which would represent you as seeking to aggrandize yourselves at the expence of your

country. The single man who sells his country for private emolument, is by common consent branded with disgrace, and consigned to infamy. Believe me, the taint is not abated, because the infection is extended, and that the sordid principle is the same, whether it actuates a city, or an individual. Nor is it vice alone, folly has a large interest in such conduct. One city, or two, flourishing, and a country suffering!—Cork thriving, and Ireland sinking! These are, be assured, monstrous combinations of inconsistent ideas, as offensive to the intellect of a wise man, as they are shocking to the principles of a good one. They are the visions of greedy ignorance. I shall, through the medium of this publication, address a few papers to you upon this interesting subject. Hereafter, I shall offer some details on commercial and other subjects. This Letter shall be confined to a few general topics, equally applicable to all parts of the kingdom.

An Union is said by some, to be necessitated by the peculiar exigencies of the present times, and by others, it is stated as recommended by positive and original benefits connected with it. Our present situation is a bad one, but will a wise man confine himself to the one consideration of abstract change, and pass by the more important question, whether, and how, the change is to be for the better? Let us candidly review our grievances; and see how the projected alteration can affect them. French ambition and intrigue, connected with domestic disaffection, labours to effect a separation from Great Britain; and to establish Republicanism. A loyal Gentry, almost unanimously attached to Monarchy, and

the British connection have co-operated with the fleets and armies of England to resist the desperate combination. Hitherto they have resisted it with success, but the hostile spirit is still unsuppressed. I believe this is a fair statement of the present situation of Ireland.

France seeks to aggrandize herself and dismember the British empire. It is idle to imagine that the projects of a foreign enemy can be in any manner affected by such an internal regulation of our political economy, and as long as all the other motives of the undertaking remain, I cannot suppose France to desert her enterprize, merely because the Irish nation is represented in Westminster instead of Dublin.

The objects of the United Irishmen are simply these;—they detest monarchy, church establishment, and the British connection—they seek a separate Republic. They affect to say, that they have been led to adopt such extreme and violent politics, by the excess of some constitutional grievances, the inequality of our representation, the establishment of the religion professed by the minority of the people, the preference which the sister kingdom obtains by the means of influence, and other alledged imperfections, which they state, as rendering a revolutionary change, and a democracy, desirable alternatives.

I am at a loss to discover how an Union is to reclaim those persons; for that they will be reclaimed is the proposition contended for, inasmuch as the physical force of the empire, which has hitherto conquered them, is equally competent to do so under all forms and modifications of the connection between the countries. It has often been justly argued, that such a party could not be conciliated by concession. The opposite direction of pursuits—the want of a community, or identity of objects, have been considered as forming an insuperable bar to their conciliation, and yet the same persons who thus reasoned, now contend, that the men who could not be conciliated may be metamorphosed by a measure which will leave all

the causes and the pretexts of their hostility undiminished, if not exaggerated. Under an Union the monarchical form of government must continue—the protestant religion will remain established—the countries will remain unseparated—the theory of a pure representation will be at least as far removed from the practice of Westminster, as of College-green. The influence of England will have been exchanged for its dominion, and I assert, that the relative position of both parties will remain precisely the same, unless, perhaps, the disgust (whether justified or not) which the innovation shall produce, may detach some parts from that combination of national loyalty, without which, the physical force of the empire might have been, in the late conflict, fruitlessly exerted. I have taken up too much time in arguing what is so plain. I have been compelled to it by the prevalence of a delusive and absurd opinion, artfully encouraged—that an *Union must necessarily restore tranquillity!* Giddy and precipitate fear never reasons, but exclaims *any thing for quiet.* I wish to check this cant of folly and terror. I remember an ideot, whose clothes caught fire; ordinary relief was at hand, but he leaped into the sea to extinguish the flames—the ideot was drowned.

A MUNSTER MAN.

THE
G O O S E
WITH THE
G O L D E N E G G S.

A FABLE.

A CLOWN had once a goose, we're told,
That laid each day an egg of gold;
Such birds, whatever, *Æsop* says,
Are no wise common in our days;